

Dr. Shuddhananda
Bharati

His Sixtieth
Birthday

Celebration committee



ASSA
Editions

Editor's Notes

His Sixtieth Birthday

A loving offering and thank you to Kavi Yogi Maharishi Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati by his sixtieth birthday celebration committee in appreciation of his pure, selfless, immortal services in the causes of patriotism, internationalism, literature, yogic culture and spiritual socialism, for over forty years.

Sri K. Kamaraj Dr. U. Krishna Rau



A warm thank you to Daye Craddock for her help in careful editing of this book.

It is a real pleasure for me to present *His Sixtieth Birthday* to you. Thank you, Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati for having transmitted all your works to us. With the blessing of *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*.

Christian Piaget

Peace Anthem

*Peace for all, peace for all
For all the countries peace
Joy for all, joy for all
For all the nations joy
A rosy morning peace
A smiling summer joy (Peace for all)*

*All for each and each for all
This is the golden rule
Life and Light and Love for all
For all that live our love (Peace for all)*

*Work and food and clothes for all
Equal status for all
Health and home and school for all
A happy world for all (Peace for all)*

*No idle rich, no more beggars
All are equal workers
No more tears, no more fears
The heart is full of cheers (Peace for all)
No atom scare, no fat mammon
No room for war demon
Like leaves in trees, like rays in the sun
We are one communion,
One Divine communion (Peace for all)*

*The good in you is good for all
Your life is life for all
The God in you is God for all
Your love is love for all (Peace for all)*

*For he or she or it or rest
This collective life is best
This Universal Life is best
North or South, or East or West (Peace for all)*

*Peace for plants and birds and beasts
For hills and streams and woods
Peace in Home – land and air and sea
Dynamic peace we see*

Peace for all, peace for all

Immortal Peace for All

Song of Unity

*Unite. Unite, Unite, Oh Souls
Unite and play your roles
Unite in mind, unite in heart
Unite in whole, unite in part
Like words and tunes and sense in song
Let East and West unite and live long
Trees are many; the grove is one
Branches are many; tree is one
Shores are many; sea is one
Limbs are many; body is one
Bodies are many; self is one
Stars are many; sky is one
Flowers are many; honey is one
Pages are many; book is one
Thoughts are many; thinker is one
Tastes are many; taster is one
Actors are many; the drama is one
Nations are many; the world is one
Religions are many; Truth is one
The wise are many; Wisdom is one
Beings are many; breath is one
Classes are many; college is one
Find out this One behind the many
Then life shall enjoy peaceful harmony*

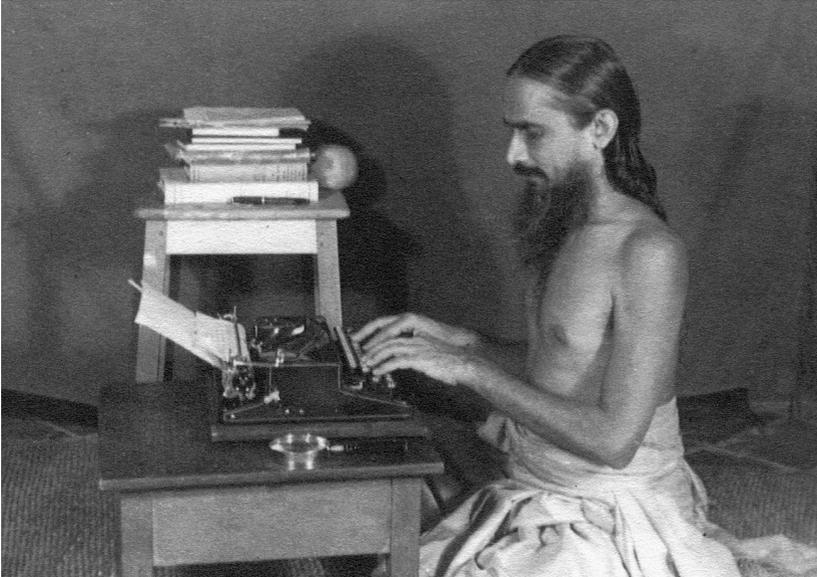
Courage!

*The night is through,
The chain of slavery
It is already broken -
I am full of courage!*

*Peace in the morning,
A golden sun rises,
Like a lion superhuman
To accomplish my dream.*

*A hopeful smile,
Docile as a child
Who plays in the infinite
With a fiery star.*

*My journey is over;
I enjoy time;
The universe is my nest,
Of eternal spring.*



Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati typing
his Poems on the typewriter in Pondicherry.

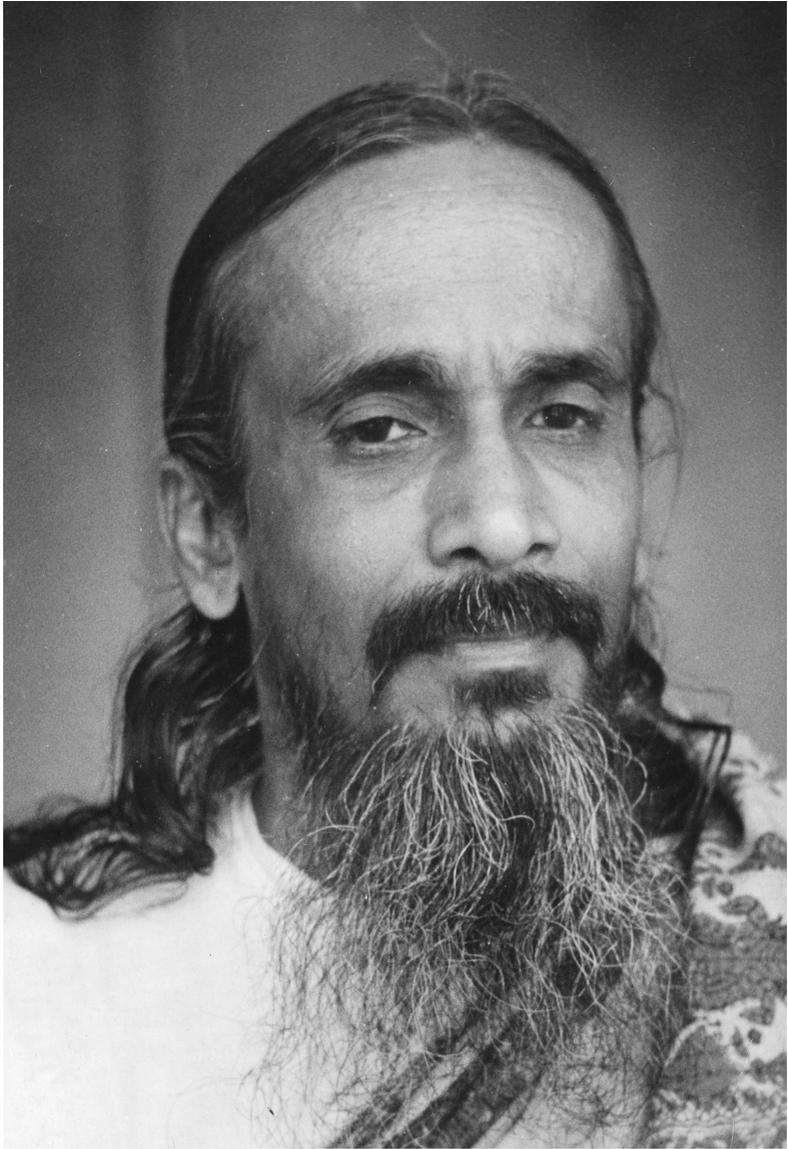
Presentation of Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati

11th May 1897 – 7th March 1990

The wise one to the cosmic age

Although more than 90 years old, in his school in the south of India, *Kavi Yogi Maharishi* (great divine visionary, wise poet), Dr. Shuddhananda Bharati worked like a young man of twenty. When he was asked his age, he answered: "My age is Courage!" The Yogi wrote several hundred works in English, French, Tamil, Hindi, Telugu and Sanskrit; five thousand songs, and fifteen hundred poems in French. The magnum opus of the man conscious of the presence of God in him, *Bharata Shakti*, (in 50,000 verses) described his ideal: only One Humanity living in communion with only One God in a transformed world! *Bharata Shakti* is a monumental and unique work. The Yogi depicts the essence of all the religions, of all the prophets and saints, all the approaches of Yoga and all the cultures on an allegorical fabric. It is a book for any age which all spiritual researchers and all nations should read and meditate on. His commitment is summarized in his book celebrating his life, *Pilgrim Soul*. The two poems mentioned in the opening express perfectly his ideal. His mantra, *Aum Shuddha Shakti Aum*, nourishes our souls and guides our steps toward the inner joy *Ananda*. It means: The light of Grace and power of the pure supreme Almighty bless us of peace, happiness and prosperity! Let the beauty and greatness of soul of Dr. Bharati Shuddhananda bloom and scent the entire Earth of its divine message and his spiritual and unifying benefactor!

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His Sixtieth Birthday

Greetings and messages

I. Greetings (16.04.1957)

On the occasion of his 60th birthday, I send my greetings and best wishes to Sri Shuddhananda Bharati, a litterateur, spiritualist and reformer. Such occasions provide an opportunity to the common people to draw inspiration from the life and achievements of one who has been able to devote himself to the service of mankind in any sphere of human activity. Sri Shuddhananda Bharati is, I am assured, such a person.

Rajendra Prasad

A word to the public

We have the honour to publish this souvenir and offer it to our beloved Yogi Maharishi Shuddhananda Bharati in commemoration of his sixtieth birthday. His life has been an integral dedication to yoga, poetry, Indian culture and service to humanity. We pray the Almighty for his long life of fruitful adventure and wish his Yoga Samaj a universal recognition. Let his genius widen into a glorious and monumental spiritual service for humanity!

We have brought out this souvenir under very trying circumstances. Dr. Naidu, who encouraged us to print this, gave us grand hopes; we felt ourselves orphaned as he suddenly left us. We are grateful for all his help as the President of the committee. But the grace of the Pure

Almighty gave us a new strength and if the souvenir and the celebration are a success today, the credit and merit go to the omnipotent grace of the Divine.

We take this opportunity of thanking profoundly all friends that have contributed to this volume and have helped us severally. Prosper All!

J. Narayanan U. Krishna Rau
Secretary Chairman of the Celebration Committee

Enquire "Who am I?"
Know the Self!
And be free!

The Yoga-Vedanta Forest University
Tat Twam Asi

Whereas, by the grace of God, the fountain of Eternal Bliss, and by the Will of the Almighty, it has been recognised that His Holiness Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati is worthy of being awarded the sacred title of

Maharishi

in appreciation of meritorious service in the field of revival of yoga and Vedanta and a firm devotion to Truth, Love and Purity. I hereby make this award in token of such recognition, with my best wishes and devout prayers to the Lord to bless the recipient hereof with health, long life, peace, prosperity, Eternal Bliss, success in all undertakings, Vidya, Tushti,, Pushti and Divine Aiswarya.

Swami Sivananda, Chancellor

Message from The Mother,
Sri Aurobindo Ashram

Dans la vérité supramentale,
tous les mensonges seront dissous.

In the supermental truth,
all falsehoods shall be dissolved.

The Mother

Message from Dr. U. Krishna Rau, Speaker, Madras, Legislative Assembly

Kavi Yogi Sri Shuddhananda Bharati is one of India's very distinguished sons. His contributions in the field of literature and philosophy are considerable.

I am glad you are celebrating his 60th birthday. Please accept my good wishes for the success of the function. May the poet live for many more years to do his good work.

U. Krishna Rau

One God, One World, One Race

Hail pure Almighty grace
Eternal Guiding Light!
Give us strength and resource
To serve Thee day and night.

Lead us from dark despair
To happy renaissance.
Lead us from vital snare
To freedom's effulgence.

Like day and night in Time
Like scent and hue in flower
Like couplets in sweet rhyme
We live in Thee for ever!

Give us rebirth in Thee
O soul-embodied Truth!
Like branches in a tree
Let nations live on earth.

Let Thy Grace keep us fit
To do Thy will alone.
Let all our days be knit
In Thy Love, Unique One.

Firmly, through thick and thin
Full of faith in success
We follow Thee Captain
Lead us to lasting bliss!

In perfect Purity
In perfect Liberty
In perfect Unity
We find Divinity.

Let all be one in Thee
Equal children of Grace
And let the human hearts see

One God, One World, One Race



Part I

Life sketch of Yogi Shuddhananda Bharati

1. Born Yogi

Saint Shuddhananda Bharati is known to the world today as a pure yogi, a divine personality who lives in God for the service of His creatures. The biographical encyclopaedia of the world speaks of him as follows:

“Yogi Sri Shuddhananda Bharati, Saint, Scholar, Poet and Spiritual Magnate of South India, born May 11, 1897, Sivaganga, Madras Presidency, South India; a born Yogi, lived in divine communion since childhood. Greatest living Tamil Poet. Easily versifies in English as well as French; author of several English and French poems. Has made deep study of English literature and all branches of modern science. Has written brilliant treatises on them, in addition to his various other literary works, which include epics, lyrics, melodramas, dramas, pastorals, novels, short stories, biographies, commentaries on illustrious works, essays, etc. Has so far written 200 books. An original epic of his, called *Bharata Shakti Maha Kavyam* (Tamil) in 50,000 lines of poetry is the magnum opus.

Began career as an educationist, conducted residential schools for the young, edited eight journals. Then took to rural reconstruction work; started schools, cottage industries, public benefactions, devotional concerts, yoga classes,

etc. Has a practical knowledge of all religions and philosophies. Gave away all his income to public causes; one of the social and political workers in India now immersed in yogas”.

2. Pure life

Swamiji's autobiography, *A Pilgrim Soul*, is a lamp of practical wisdom. We see in it how the Swamiji has been living in Yoga with the Divine and following the voice of Conscience from Truth to Truth, from Light to Light, tiding over the countless difficulties of life in this world. He has an intuitive genius. His heart is wide like the sky and his mind deep in meditation. He considers the heaven-canopied universe as his home, humanity as his kith and kin, God as his Father and His Grace as his Mother. Even as a tender boy of seven years, he contemplated on the wide sky as the form of God and the sunrise as His emanation. He has realised God as the highest Purity and all creation as the manifestation of His Power so that he calls the Pure Almighty as Aum Shuddha Shakti, meaning Aum Hail Pure Almighty Grace. This mantra was inspired in him intuitively. His breath marches to its rhythm. He is attached to none and nothing except to the Pure Almighty Aum which has given him Light and leading. From A to Z, his life is evidence of the Divine Presence and possibility. He sees the world from within, with a psychic micro-tele-scope of intuition and knows things from direct perception. He keeps up what he calls the Gnostic Equilibrium by which the soul is in tune with the Supreme. He lives the purest life, takes the simplest natural diet and does the hardest labour for the uplift of humanity.

3. Inspired poet

Even as a little boy of seven he spurned wealth and luxury. His uncle placed before the boy his immense treasure with the tempting words: "Anandam, all these are yours; be my son." "I am the son of the pure Almighty Aum," said the boy. "All these treasures are His. Give them to the poor; that is the use of wealth." At that moment a beggar was crying in the street. Young Shuddhananda quickly picked up a few gold coins from the heaped treasure and ran crying: "This is for my brother there!"

The perturbed uncle plucked off the coins from the boy's hand, locked up his safe and reprimanded: "Impertinent! You speak to me like a yogi! Go away to your Pure Almighty!" That was a divine call indeed! The boy patiently went to the temple and surrendered himself to the Divine Power; so perfect was that surrender that the Grace possessed him and in a sudden fit of inspiration he lisped verses. From that day, poetry and songs flowed from his heart in perennial streams of ecstasy. Thousands of his early poems were put to fire by one of his envious relatives. The boy never dreamt that he would become a famous poet. He sang before the Divine Presence and tore away what he wrote. One day he was writing on the wall: "Seek ye the Divine Light alone; all else will break off and then vanish like bubbles." This drew the admiration of a wise scholar, who found out his genius and encouraged him to compose poems daily and preserve them for the future. He received English education and Vedic training, which gave him a comprehensive knowledge of India's heritage and culture.

4. Inner Wisdom

Shuddhananda took interest in seer-poets like Vyasa, Valmiki, Kalidasa, Sankara, Kamban, Valluvar, Tayumanar, Appar, Manickavachakar, Ramalingam, Nammalvar, Vemana, Thyagaraja, Milton, Shakespeare, Racine, Dante, Virgil and Homer. He became a linguist and a voracious reader of modern books and sciences. But he has risen beyond book-knowledge to the treasures of the inner wisdom and created a psychic university within himself. By self-identification with the soul of god-men and god-poets and by dint of hard tapasya (austerities) he has developed his knowledge and psychic powers to a great extent and he is able to pour out his soul's inspiration like torrents. His parents tried to yoke him in wedlock several times but he escaped all. In his sixteenth year he renounced home and took to intense self-culture and realisation. The name Shuddhananda Bharati (meaning Bliss in Purity) was given to him by a saint in his boyhood. Bharati (meaning wisdom) is the lineal honorific suffix of the monastic sect to which he belongs. His master initiated him in spirituality and yoga and after intense meditation and silence he attained God-consciousness in his eighteenth year. In his twentieth year he had started to write his magnum opus, the *Bharata Shakti*, which contains 50,000 lines.

5. Educator

Swamiji believes in self-help and economic independence. He is not a mere sky-gazer. He is very practical in his life. Early in life he maintained himself by teaching boys. He has been an educationist well esteemed by his colleagues

and a scout master too. He joined the Teachers' Guild and fought for the amelioration of the teaching profession. He treated his students as his own brothers and devoted his heart and soul for their perfection. Besides teaching the class lessons, he trained them in social and national service. He taught them how to be healthy, resourceful, devoted to God and to humanity and how to be useful to the country. In short, he had followed the system of Gurukula education.

He did a good deal of rural uplift work. To raise the depressed, to remove the evils of caste and fanaticism, to liquidate illiteracy, to remove poverty, ignorance, social and political slavery, he did admirable service. His songs and speeches spurred people to action. He held Bhajans, religious concerts and spiritual classes.

As an outcome, many people left off meat eating, liquor, tobacco, evil habits and vain gossip. He conducted mass drills and scout camps. He gave his students mental, moral, aesthetic, physical, industrial and spiritual training. He taught them applied science also.

One day he was mixing chemicals to make match-sticks. A sudden explosion! His wrist was bleeding. He swooned. The fumes choked his breath. Friends began to be anxious about his life. Suddenly he rose up, controlling himself by yogic force and said: "God has warned me, I must fulfil my mission; yes, I must not delay, He calls me." From that moment, not a minute sparing, he steeped himself into his spiritual and poetic mission. It was after this accident that he began to write his *Bharata Shakti*.

6. Nationalist

Early in life, Shuddhananda was a staunch nationalist. His nationalism began with the *Vandemataram* movement launched by Tilak. Tilak and V. O. Chidambaram Pillai were his early heroes. He was then a revolutionary. His views were changed when he came close to Mahatma Gandhiji in 1917. He translated into action whatever Gandhiji said in his *Young India*. From Gandhiji at Tiruchirapalli in 1920 Shuddhananda received Kaddhar with his blessings and boldly took part in the Satyagraha meetings and also organised Congress volunteers. He bloomed into an evolutionary, spiritual socialist. Gandhiji appreciated his universal ideas. During the days of the Khilafat agitation, he lived in a mosque and practised Islam. He did regularly the five Namaz and observed Id and Ramzan. He studied the *Al Quoran* under a moulvi and wrote the life and teachings of the Prophet Mohammed in verses which he read in the mosque every night. He thus won the respect and regard of Islamic friends. It must be noted that he also studied the *Bible* thoroughly and wrote the life and teachings of Jesus in verses while he was in a Christian institution.

Mahatmaji advised him to carry on constructive work. Accordingly, Swamiji toured the villages along with his volunteers and served the nation in word and deed as desired by Gandhiji.

7. Freedom Calls

His spiritual socialism frightened the school authorities. Swamiji encouraged his students to attend the national

meetings and he took them one midnight to see Mahatmaji on his way to Tiruchi. As a result, the students were to be punished. Swamiji protested, saying: "I led the future citizens of my country to see the father of our nation. Me punish!" The head of the institution secretly punished the students. Swamiji placed on his table a laconic resignation. "Freedom calls; no more walls!" The students gave him a rousing farewell. "I leave the arm-chair-life to lead a life of yoga and service; from sacrifice to sacrifice I shall go until nothing shall be left in me except God," said he in reply to the farewell address. He did austerities for a few days on hills and river beds and then went to Devakottah where a national school was organised by one of his bosom friends. Here he span, wove, taught, trained young men, spread Khadhi, did humanitarian work, organised national meetings and devotional concerts. He found time to write science books from the science hall where he was put up. He held Hindi classes also and Yoga Siddhi groups. He was organising an institution to work out his own plans of national education when the call of the revolutionary hero, Sri V. V. S. Ayyar, came.

8. Gurukul

Mr. Ayyar, a scholar, patriot and savant, was a long time friend of Swamiji. He started a gurukul at Shermadevi and called Swamiji for his assistance. Swamiji attended the Rameshwaram conference and spoke there on the future of nationalism and the need for constructive works and the aims of the Gurukula education. He then went to the Bharadwaja Ashram – as the gurukula was called – to be

the close companion of Mr. Ayyar to conduct the gurukul and also the *Bala Bharathi*, a new monthly. The friendship of Mr. Ayyar did him immense good. With him, he studied all the European and Oriental classics and wrote a number of inspiring poems and prose works. The tragic death of Ayyar cast a gloom on his life. He ran the institution and the monthly for a time and then set out to Viswa Yoga (Yoga for the Universal Good) and also to serve the country in all possible ways, that is, to be in tune with the Infinite Divine as one serves humanity.

9. Viswa Yoga

He edited the *Samarasa Bodhini*, a biweekly, for some months and then started an industrial ashram and a journal called *Tozhil Kalvi (Industrial Education)*. He organised and directed rural services in several villages and worked out schools, sanatoriums, concerts, spinning and weaving crafts and held religious classes at night. He gave employment and food to the poor and reformed their lives. Many people abstained from drink and evil habits and joined his devotional concerts. Through songs he reformed the people and those songs are in book form today. He next edited a monthly called *Nature (Iyarkai)* to teach people how to live in tune with Mother Nature, a disease-free life. He presided over a number of rural reconstruction conferences and his presidential addresses are still read with emotion. He did humanitarian work and saved thousands of lives from being killed in the name of religion. He even fasted in some places to achieve his aim.

He then came in contact with Jain ascetics; mastered their literature and wrote the life and teachings of Mahavira during a ten-day fast. Then he reverted to Buddhism. He lived with some Bikshus, studied the *Dhammapada*, Zen Buddhism and wrote the life and teachings of the Buddha in lucid verses. He was also connected with the Youth Movement started by T. L. Vasvani and taught to the students Hatha asana and Pranayama and the Brahmacharya cult for which a monthly was run.

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